

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 3 and 12 through 14 to read, as follows.

Please amend Claims 4, 6 through 10, 15 through 17, and 20 and add Claims 23 and 24 to read, as follows.

1. **(Canceled)**

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:

a developer bearing member; and

a developer carrying screw placed in parallel with said developer bearing member,

wherein said developer carrying screw includes a rotary shaft and a spiral blade,

and said spiral blade is wound about said rotary shaft in a spiral form and has a carrying surface for carrying developer,

and wherein when viewing said developer carrying screw in cross-section in a longitudinal direction of said developer carrying screw, an inclination angle with respect to a rotation center line of said rotary shaft at one side of said carrying surface is smaller than an inclination angle with respect to a rotation center line of at an opposite side of said carrying surface, wherein an inclination angle of "a carrying surface facing in a developer carrying direction of a spiral blade of said developer carrying screw" to a shaft of said

~~developer carrying screw is smaller than an inclination angle of a surface at an opposite side from the carrying surface of said blade.~~

5. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein said developer carrying screw is placed adjacently to said developer bearing member.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:
a developer bearing member; and
a developer carrying screw placed in parallel with said developer bearing member,
wherein said developer carrying screw includes a rotary shaft and a spiral blade,
and wherein said spiral blade is wound about said rotary shaft in a spiral form and has a
carrying surface for carrying a developer,
and wherein when viewing said developer carrying screw in cross-section in a
longitudinal direction of said developer carrying screw, said carrying surface has surface
portions having a plurality of different inclination angles with respect to a rotation center
line of said rotary shaft. ~~wherein a spiral blade of said developer carrying screw faces in a~~
~~developer carrying direction, and has a plurality of carrying surfaces having different~~
~~inclination angles with respect to a shaft of said developer carrying screw.~~

7. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein a portion of said ~~[[the]]~~ carrying surface near to ~~[[the]]~~ said rotary shaft of
~~said screw~~ has a ~~[[the]]~~ smaller angle than a portion of said ~~[[the]]~~ carrying surface farther
from said rotary shaft, ~~the shaft of said screw~~.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein when a distance from a reference surface of ~~[[the]]~~ said rotary shaft of said
~~developer carrying screw~~ to a tip end of said ~~[[the]]~~ blade is H1, and a distance from the
reference surface to a point P at which the plurality of carrying surfaces intersect ~~are~~
intersecting each other ~~each other~~, said developer carrying screw satisfies:

$$\underline{H2, H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2}} \text{ is } H2, H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ is satisfied.}$$

9. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein said developer carrying screw further satisfies:

$$\underline{H1 \times \frac{1}{3} < H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2}} \text{ satisfies } H1 \times \frac{1}{3} < H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2}.$$

10. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein an inclination angle of said portion of said ~~[[the]]~~ carrying surface near to
~~[[the]]~~ said rotary shaft of said screw is equal to or more than 3 degrees and equal to or less
than 50 degrees.

11. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein said developer carrying screw is placed adjacently to said developer
bearing member.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:
a developer bearing member; and
a developer carrying screw placed in parallel with said developer bearing member,
wherein said developer carrying screw includes a rotary shaft and a plurality of
spiral blades, and wherein each of said plurality of blades is wound about said rotary shaft
in a spiral form and has a carrying surface for carrying a developer,
and wherein when viewing each of said plurality of developer carrying screws in
cross-section in a longitudinal direction of each of said plurality of developer carrying
screws, an inclination angle of a carrying surface of each one of said plurality of blades
with respect to a rotation center line of said rotary shaft is different from the inclination
angles of the carrying surfaces of the other blades. ~~wherein said developer carrying screw~~
~~has a plurality of spiral blades having different inclination angles of carrying surfaces~~
~~facing in the developer carrying direction.~~

16. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of said plurality of said developer carrying screws includes ~~screw has~~ a first blade with an ~~[[the]]~~ inclination angle of a ~~[[the]]~~ carrying surface ~~facing in the developer carrying direction~~ having a first value, and a second blade with an inclination angle of a carrying surface having a second value smaller than the first value, and said second blade is adjacent to said first blade, at an upstream side in a ~~[[the]]~~ developer carrying direction.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein when a distance from a reference surface of ~~[[the]]~~ said rotary shaft of said developer carrying screw to a tip end of said first blade is H1, and a distance from the reference surface to a tip end of said second ~~blade~~ blade, each of said plurality of developer carrying screws satisfies:

$$\underline{H2, H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2}}. \text{ is } H2, H2 < H1 \times 0.7 \text{ is satisfied.}$$

18. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an ~~[[the]]~~ inclination angle of said first blade is larger than 60 degrees, and an ~~[[the]]~~ inclination angle of said second blade is larger than 5 degrees and smaller than 40 degrees.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 16,
wherein a surface in [[of]] a space between said second blade and said first blade at
an [[the]] upstream side of said second blade in a [[the]] developer carrying direction is
inclined with respect to the developer carrying direction.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The developing apparatus according to claim 19,
wherein when a distance from a reference surface of [[the]] said rotary shaft ~~of said~~
~~developer carrying screw~~ to a tip end of said first blade is H1, and a distance from the
reference surface to a point P at which the carrying surface of said first blade and the
surface in the space are intersecting each ~~other~~ other, satisfies:

$$\underline{H2, H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2}} \text{ is } H3, H3 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ is satisfied.}$$

21. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 20,
wherein an inclination angle of the surface in the space is larger than 5 degrees and
smaller than 40 degrees.

22. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 15,
wherein said developer carrying screw is placed adjacently to said developer
bearing member.

--23. **(New)** The developing apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein the inclination angle of the carrying surface is equal to or more than 50
degrees and equal to or less than 60 degrees.

24. **(New)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein the carrying surface is a curved surface.--